



Metropolitan King County Council

Room 1200, King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104-3272

(206) 296-1000
TTY/TDD (206) 296-1024
Toll Free: 1-800-325-6165
Internet: www.metrokc.gov/mkcc

February 18, 2003

VIA FACSIMILE AND U.S. MAIL

Dennis Braddock, Secretary
Department of Social and Health Services
P.O. Box 45322
Olympia, WA 98504-5322

Dear Secretary Braddock,

We are writing as representatives of King County to support the request proposed by King County Councilmembers Julia Patterson and Pete von Reichbauer that the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) focus its search for a Secure Community Transition Facility in the Forest Production District of King County. We also wish to express our intent to work collaboratively with DSHS in its efforts to establish a Secure Community Transition Facility in a non-residential area of King County.

We recognize the challenges the state faces in finding suitable property for a Secure Community Transition Facility – as directed by the Federal Courts and State Legislature. However, siting a facility for sexual offenders in a residential area of King County is something we can not support. These facilities must be removed from population centers, schools, daycares and bus stops.

It is our strong belief that areas in the Forest Production District, including the land adjacent to the Fire Training Center, represent a more appropriate location for a SCTF. As noted by Councilmembers Patterson and von Reichbauer, areas of the Forest Production District, including the Fire Training Center, are not located in residential zoned communities. These areas are far removed from schools, daycare centers and bus stops. While remote, many areas still afford reasonable access to treatment centers and employment opportunities.

Therefore, if a site in the Forest Production District is selected by DSHS, we are committed to working with the state to mitigate factors that may arise, as we are able. In these efforts, the health and safety of the citizens of King County shall be our highest priority.

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We look forward to working with you to address the challenges that confront the Department of Social and Health Services in its efforts to find an appropriate location for a Secure Community Transition Facility.

Sincerely,

Erin Sullivan
R. - Ramin

Julia Patterson

Carolyn Edwards

cc: Gary Locke, Governor
Ron Sims, King County Executive

Tom Corbett

James D. Dwyer

James Sullivan

JF PJ